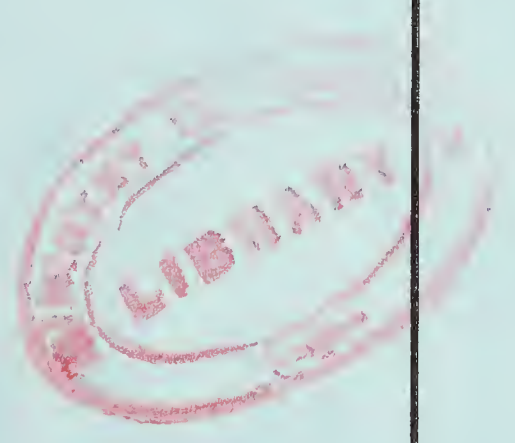


Urban District of Ilfracombe.



ANNUAL  
HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1943

INCLUDING THE

Report <sup>of</sup> the Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.



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# Urban District of Ilfracombe.

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## **Public Health Committee :**

*Chairman :* COUNCILLOR W. H. ROULSTONE.

### COUNCILLORS :

H. BRYANT.

F. G. REED.

R. FAIRCHILD.

W. SHORE.

Mrs. H. FARNDELL.

R. E. A. STUART.

T. MERCER.

W. E. TREBBLE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL  
(Councillor J. H. GILBERT, J.P.)

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL  
(Councillor J. ARMSTRONG).

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## **Public Health Staff :**

### *Part-Time Officer :*

*Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent of Isolation Hospital—*

W. B. BOONE, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.

### *Whole-Time Officers :*

*Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :*

F. J. SAUNDERS, Cert. R. San. Inst., M.S.I.A.

*Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.*  
*Meat Inspector's Certificate, Liverpool University.*

*Clerk :* MISS E. PEARCE.

*Matron, Isolation Hospital :* Miss G. CARRICK, S.R.N., S.F.N.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ILFRACOMBE.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District Council.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my First Annual Report as Temporary Medical Officer of Health for the Ilfracombe Urban District having been appointed to this position in June, 1943, following the retirement of Dr. D. C. Adam, who was Medical Officer of Health for many years.

I would like to thank the Officials of the Council who have helped me in many ways, and particularly must I thank Mr. F. J. Saunders, the Sanitary Inspector, for his invaluable help to me at all times during the past year.

Miss G. Carrick, the Matron at the Isolation Hospital, with the help of the Nursing Staff, with all the difficulties attending the shortage of staff, has carried out her work most efficiently, I would like to express my grateful thanks to her.

Miss Dean, Commandant, and Members of the Red Cross Detachment, have again been of great assistance with the Immunisation Scheme and at the Treatment for Scabies Centre, these also I would like to thank.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

June, 1944.

W. B. BOONE, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.

## Statistical Memoranda, 1943.

Area (excluding Foreshore) .. .. .	5,627 acres
Rateable Value (1st April, 1943) .. .. .	£85,469
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	£345 12s. 5d.
Rainfall during 1943 .. .. .	954.2 m.m.
Bright Sunshine during 1943 .. .. .	1724.2 hours

## Vital Statistics.

Live Births :	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	13.3
Still Births :	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) .. .. .	37.2
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	16.5
<i>Corrected Death Rate</i> .. .. .	not available for 1943

### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .	1	6.2
Other Maternal Causes .. .. .	0	0

### INFANT MORTALITY.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 live births .. .. .	43.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .	37.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .	6.2
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. .. .	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. .. .	2

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Detailed particulars of these services were given in the Annual Report for the year 1932; there has been no material change during the present year.

The Tuberculosis Death-rate was 0.69 per 1,000.

Cancer was responsible for a Death-rate of 3.1 per 1,000.

The Death-rate from Heart Disease was 5.0 per 1,000.

No comparability factor is available for the year 1943 and from the following table it will be noted that no less than ~~2~~<sup>10</sup> of the deaths were those of persons whose age was 70 or more years.

#### Age at Death :

- 24 ~~2~~ deaths were recorded of persons at 70<sup>under 75</sup> years and over.
- 29 ~~2~~ deaths were recorded of persons at 75<sup>under 80</sup> years and over.
- 22 ~~2~~ deaths were recorded of persons at 80<sup>under 85</sup> years and over.
- 12 ~~2~~ deaths were recorded of persons at 85<sup>under 90</sup> years and over.
- 13 ~~2~~ deaths were recorded of persons at 90 years and over.

### Water Supply.

The water supply is constant ; it is delivered by gravitation and is of the highest purity.

With the exception of a few houses, principally farm buildings in the outlying parts of the district and which have their own private supplies, the whole of the population is supplied from the Council's Works directly to the houses.

Owing to the fact that at times the water has a plumbo-solvent action the use of lead pipes for distributing water is forbidden.

Five routine samples were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination.

In each case the sample was reported to be of a satisfactory standard of organic and bacterial purity.

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Cases Notified.														Cases admitted to I. Hospital	Deaths.													
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total	Under 1		1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total		
		2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65					2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65				
Measles ... ..	5	2	15	11	8	8	3	6	2		2	1		135															
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...										1				1													1		
Pneumonia ... ..						1				1		1	4	7									1				3		
Scarlet Fever ... ..						5	2	1			1			9															
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	1													1															
Erysipelas ... ..												1		1															
Paratyphoid Fever ...									1					1															
Sonne Dysentery ... ..						1								1															



## Diphtheria Immunisation.

The immunisation of children was continued throughout 1943, the following numbers being dealt with :

Children under 5 years of age ... ..	129
Children age 5 to 15 years ... ..	104

No case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

## Scabies.

The cleansing station is at the Isolation Hospital.

162 cases were treated, 64 of these being cured by a single treatment.

## Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory Males	Females	Non Respiratory Males	Females	Respiratory Males	Females	Non Respiratory Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	5	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
35 to 45 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 years	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	11	8	1	—	4	2	1	—

**Disinfection of Rooms and Articles.** 121 rooms were disinfected as follows :—Scarlet Fever, 10 rooms; Measles 2 rooms; Scabies, 7 rooms; Tuberculosis, 6 rooms; Typhoid 1 room; Vermin, 75 rooms; Cancer, 10 rooms; Other diseases, 10 rooms.

3,880 articles were disinfected.

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1943.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District  
Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Sixteenth Annual Report which deals with the work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1943.

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## COMPLAINTS.

A total of 87 complaints were received and investigated, 7 of these referred to nuisances under the Public Health Acts, 10 concerned the presence of rats and 70 were in reference to delay or carelessness in collecting house refuse.

## NOTICES SERVED.

Statutory (under Public Health Acts)	...	2
Informal do.	...	53
Verbal do.	...	23
Notices relative to infectious disease	...	10

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88

In addition to the above 1,141 letters and circulars were sent out in reference to the following :—Milk Supply, 47 ; Food Inspection, 219 ; Petroleum Act, 16 ; Salvage, 292 ; Infectious Disease and Immunisation, 567.

## SUMMARY OF SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

House roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...	...	7
Eaves gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	9
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	3
External plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Plaster walls repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Kitchen stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	8
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	9
Room walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	8
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Water closet cisterns repair or renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Water closet basins replaced	...	...	...	...	3
Water closet basins cleansed	...	...	...	...	7
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	6
New Interceptors provided	...	...	...	...	2
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	26
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Waste pipes cleared	...	...	...	...	4
Factory walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	5
Factory water closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Nuisance from animals abated	...	...	...	...	3
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	8



# Factories & Workshops Act, 1901.

## Factories Act, 1937.

### I. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health.

(Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspection (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecuted Occupiers (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power ...	42	0	0
FACTORIES without mechanical power ...	79	3	0
OTHER PREMISES under the Act ... (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	18	0	0
Total ... ..	139	3	0

### 2. **Defects Found.**

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	7	7	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	Nil	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient ... ..	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	8	8	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	Nil	—	—	—
Other offences... ..	1	1	—	—
(not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Power) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
Total ... ..	18	18	Nil	Nil



**Eradication of Bed Bugs.** 5 houses were found to be infested, none of these were houses owned by the Council.

Disinfestation by spraying with an insecticide was carried out by the Council's staff after the woodwork had been loosed from the walls by persons employed by the house owners.

**Housing.**  
**Housing Statistics.**

1.	INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.		
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	78
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	316
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 925 and 932		0
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	51
2.	REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.		
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	... ..	50
3.	ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.		
A.	<i>Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
	(a) By owners	... ..	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0
B.	<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	50
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were rendered after service of formal notices :		
	(a) By owners	... ..	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

C. *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	0

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—OVERCROWDING.

In view of the large number of evacuees received in the district, it was impossible to consider overcrowding.

**Camping Grounds.** Very few camping sites were in use, most of these being occupied only for short periods.

Conditions were found to be satisfactory when the 15 visits of inspection were made.

**Beach and Pleasure Grounds.** No serious nuisance was reported on any of the beaches or pleasure grounds.

Arrangements for the regular collection and removal of refuse are in operation.



# Inspection and Supervision of Food.

## MILK SUPPLY.

Administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders necessitated the following visits and inspections :

Farms	...	...	84 visits
Cowsheds	...	...	104 visits
Dairies	...	...	193 visits
Dairymen's vehicles	...	...	191 inspections

The total number of milk samples submitted for examination was 430.

There are now 43 registered cowkeepers within the district, 14 of these are registered as wholesale traders, 23 as retail purveyors and 6 are registered as both wholesale traders and as retail purveyors. 29 non-producers are registered as retail purveyors.

The Rationalisation Scheme introduced by the Ministry of Food has reduced the number of separate retailers premises so that at the end of the year there were only eight producers retailing and a further eight premises in use as retail dairies.

Previous to the War, 37 persons were registered to sell cream in the Ilfracombe Market, since such sales were prohibited no cream has been on sale in the Market.

## Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

107 samples of milk were submitted to the County Bacteriologist and examined by the Methylene Blue Reduction Test, 49 of these were also tested to ascertain the presence of bacillus coli, 55 samples passed and 52 failed.

314 samples were obtained at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and forwarded to Torrington Laboratory to be examined by the Resazurin Test so that the keeping quality could be ascertained.

156 samples were graded A, 65 were graded B and 93 were graded C.

## Tuberculosis Examination of Milk samples.

33 of the samples sent to the County Laboratory were examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli by means of guinea pig inoculation. 1 sample gave a positive result, the infected animal was traced and dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture in accordance with the Tuberculosis Order.

29 samples gave negative results and 3 owing to the premature death of the inoculated guinea pigs were reported as inconclusive.



## Unsound Food Destroyed 1943.

Apples	... 13 tins	Meat Paste	... 6 jars
Apricots	... 1 „	Cocoa	... 4 packets
Cherries	... 1 „	Dried Egg	... 199 tins
Fruit Salad	... 19 „	Dried Milk	... 3 „
Gooseberries	... 2 „	Sugar	... 560 lbs.
Pears	... 4 „	Split Peas	... 170½ „
Plums	... 17 „	Biscuits	... 96 cartons
Rhubarb	... 1 „	Flour	... 62 packets
Tomatoes	... 20 „	Pudding Mixture...	12 „
Apricot Jam	... 5 jars	Rolled Oats	... 112 lbs.
Black Currant Jam	... 2 „	Cheese	... 55 „
Bramble Jam	... 4 „	Lard	... 4½ „
Gooseberry Jam	... 1 „	Chopped Ham	... 12 tins
Grape and Orange Jam...	4 „	Chicken	... 1 „
Marmalade	... 5 „	Corned Beef	... 4 „
Plum Jam	... 75 tins	Luncheon Meat	... 100 „
Raspberry Jam	... 1 jar	Park Loaf	... 14 „
Strawberry Jam	... 6 „	Sausage Meat	... 10 „
Syrup	... 1 tin	Stewed Steak	... 7 „
Honey	... 1 jar	Herrings	... 8 „
Mincemeat	... 1 „	Pilchards	... 37 „
Beans	... 45 tins	Salmon	... 45 „
Carrots	... 24 „	Sardines	... 34 „
Peas	... 35 „	Hake	... 116 lbs.
Mixed Vegetables	... 3 „	Skate	... 98 „
Soup	... 38 „	Fish Cakes (78)	

Total weight 1 ton, 7 cwts., 2 qrs., 3½ lbs.

---

**Shops Act, 1934.** During the year 313 inspections were made in accordance with this Act, insanitary conditions were found on four premises, in each case the person responsible was notified and the faults remedied.





## Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following table gives particulars of the samples submitted to Public Analyst :

Article	Samples taken		Result of Analysis		Prosecutions
	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Adulterated	
New Milk	... 9	0	8	1	1
Brawn	... 1	0	1	0	0
Mustard	... 1	0	1	0	0
Pepper	... 1	0	1	0	0
Pudding Mixture	1	0	1	0	0
Total ...	13	0	12	1	1

Administrative Return of Action with regard to samples not reported to be genuine :

Article	Nature of Adulteration		Result
New Milk.	No. 59.	6 per cent. deficient in milk fat.	Case dismissed

The average composition of the 8 "genuine" samples of milk was :

Non-fatty milk solids	...	8.9	per cent.
Milk-fat	... ..	4.14	per cent.

Four informal samples of milk were examined in the Sanitary Inspector's Office, this informal examination of samples enables a close supervision to be maintained at a minimum of cost.

## Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

11 licenses were issued for the storage of a total of 18,521 gallons of petroleum-spirit.

One licence to store 40 gallons of petroleum mixture was granted.

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority was £6 15s. 0d. 60 inspections were made under the Act.

## Meat and Other Foods.

Under the Ministry of Foods centralisation scheme the use of the Public Abattoir as a slaughterhouse was discontinued but the premises are still in use as a distribution centre.

The following inspections were made in connection with the supervision of the food supply :—

Bakehouses	...	...	40
Markets	...	...	46
Food Shops and Depots	...	...	614
Slaughterhouses	...	...	78
Preserved Meat Dealers	...	...	53
Cafes and Hotels	...	...	41
Food Hawkers' Vehicles	...	...	32
Meat Carriers' Vehicles	...	...	37
Other Food Premises	...	...	89

## Public Cleansing.

House and trade refuse collection is carried out by a contractor working under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Modern vehicles of the rear loading type and fitted with movable rubber floors are in use and have proved most suitable.

Owing to difficulty in obtaining spare parts one of the vehicles could not be used during the summer with the result that only a weekly collection could be made instead of the usual twice weekly collection as is customary each summer.

As many articles formerly thrown away are now salvaged there was again a reduction in the amount of refuse put out for collection.

**Street Cleansing.** Street Cleansing is done by men in the direct employ of the Council, a small van is used for collecting the sweepings and this has proved much more satisfactory than the use of the uncovered horse drawn vehicles.

**Salvage.** Salvage work has been continued throughout the year, each house in the town area is visited once each week and a fortnightly collection is made from the outlying districts. The results this year again give a highly satisfactory result.

In addition to providing essential materials urgently required in the National interest the collection of salvage has again resulted in a profit which the Council may utilise for other services.

## SALVAGE COLLECTIONS AND SALES.

Tons.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.				£	s.	d.
144	3	2	20	Paper and Books ...	...	...	933	16	2
27	18	2	0	Iron ...	...	...	47	0	1
102	11	1	0	Tins ...	...	...	85	19	6
	3	1	3	Aluminium ...	...	...	9	7	10
	7	0	23	Brass ...	...	...	6	19	8
	1	0	1	Copper ...	...	...	1	13	1
	8	3	4	Lead ...	...	...	6	3	4
			17½	Pewter ...	...	...		17	6
	5	0	4	Zinc ...	...	...	2	12	1
8	11	1	1	Rags ...	...	...	154	8	6
	2	2	21	Woollens ...	...	...	7	10	6
2	9	1	20	Carpet ...	...	...	9	13	3
2	16	1	21	Sacking ...	...	...	9	12	11
1	19	1	1	Flock ...	...	...	3	19	0
2	10	0	0	Rubber ...	...	...	6	5	0
10	0	0	0	Batteries ...	...	...	5	0	0
	4	2	5	Cord and Rope ...	...	...		17	9
		3	14	Hair ...	...	...	1	9	6
		1	18	Fibre ...	...	...		5	9
	1	3	16	Feathers ...	...	...	2	13	0
		3	14	Felt Hats ...	...	...	7	15	1
	2	2	26	Gramophone Records ...	...	...	2	1	9
5	11	1	2	Bottles ...	...	..	31	6	3
8	8	1	17	Jars ...	...	...	67	15	6
9	19	3	13	Bones ...	...	...	49	4	0
				Haulage ...	...	...	35	17	4
		2	0	Miscellaneous ...	...	...		11	6
—	—	—	—				<hr/>		
328	18	3	9				£1490	15	10

As in previous years there has again been close co-operation with all departments of the Council, and I take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the friendly and valuable help of the officials and their staffs.

Your obedient servant,

F. J. SAUNDERS.

*June, 1944.*







